

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, SEPTEMBER 1977

If you want to know more about these statistics —

ring Mr Godfrey Laurie, Canberra 526573 or our State office, or

write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526626 or State offices.

INQUIRIES

MAIN FEATURES

In September 1977 there were 242 industrial disputes involving 122,900 workers and resulting in a loss of 273,800 working days.

The main disputes in September involved —

- Club employees in New South Wales
- Electricity supply workers in Victoria
- Rail, tram and bus workers in Victoria
- Oil company employees in Queensland

These disputes accounted for just over half of the total working days lost.

In the September quarter 1977 658,600 working days were lost, the lowest figure for a September quarter since 1969, when 284,800 working days were lost.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly bulletin *Industrial Disputes* (Catalogue No. 6322.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.6).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1.

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual figures. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (b)	
1972	..	2,298	..	1,113.8	2,010.3	1.8	32,074
1973	..	2,538	..	803.0	2,634.7	3.3	45,206
1974	..	2,809	..	2,004.8	6,292.5	3.1	128,302
1975	..	2,432	..	1,398.0	3,509.9	2.5	95,761
1976	..	2,055	..	2,189.9	3,799.2	1.7	114,552
1976 —							
September	189	222	49.7	63.0	143.4	2.3	4,713
October	174	206	45.2	56.4	182.5	3.2	6,266
November	194	233	41.4	52.9	159.8	3.0	5,446
December	89	121	16.3	24.4	62.3	2.6	2,233
1977 —							
January	119	119	17.2	17.2	28.4	1.7	919
February	182	197	35.8	36.7	109.9	3.0	3,657
March	237	266	73.0	76.9	169.0	2.2	5,724
April	131	162	23.2	33.7	98.8	2.9	3,510
May	193	234	59.3	67.7	153.7	2.3	5,989
June	193	224	65.7	78.2	158.3	2.0	5,919
July (c)	202	242	51.9	75.7	160.6	2.1	5,863
August (c)	201	249	91.3	111.0	224.2	2.0	8,078
September (c)	203	242	91.7	122.9	273.8	2.2	9,892

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period — see paragraph 4, above. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures — see paragraph 4, above. (c) Subject to revision.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES (a), AUSTRALIA
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (b)

Period	Manufacturing				Transport and storage; communication			Other industries (c)	All industries		
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Construction	Stevedoring services	Other					
	Coal	Other									
1972	60.8	62.0	620.2	393.7	407.8	39.2	205.2	221.3	2,010.3		
1973	87.5	155.3	800.8	661.4	439.3	49.5	93.2	347.6	2,634.7		
1974	163.0	146.5	2,850.8	756.7	1,188.7	111.1	516.2	559.4	6,292.5		
1975	343.3	90.0	1,279.2	464.1	497.0	46.2	146.7	643.5	3,509.9		
1976	159.1	215.0	775.0	856.5	535.8	37.1	388.0	832.6	3,799.2		
1976 -											
September	10.6	26.6	27.2	36.6	28.6	2.1	4.6	7.2	143.4		
October	7.0	16.6	23.5	88.8	29.8	0.7	2.6	13.5	182.5		
November	8.0	9.5	20.9	70.0	21.7	1.5	7.0	21.1	159.8		
December	4.0	13.0	10.0	18.7	10.6	1.6	0.2	4.2	62.3		
1977 -											
January	2.5	1.0	5.1	6.1	6.8	0.6	2.5	3.7	28.4		
February	6.0	9.8	25.9	30.9	24.7	1.6	1.0	10.1	109.9		
March	17.3	8.6	19.0	72.2	23.0	3.7	11.7	13.6	169.0		
April	3.2	33.0	13.6	34.0	4.0	0.7	1.0	9.4	98.8		
May	23.7	4.9	18.8	54.5	14.1	0.2	33.1	4.4	153.7		
June	3.3	62.2	16.5	30.9	15.6	5.5	9.8	14.5	158.3		
July (d)	19.8	20.0	23.5	37.6	25.4	7.0	3.9	23.5	160.6		
August (d)	9.5	3.2	28.4	48.1	51.4	0.2	44.4	39.0	224.2		
September (d)	5.6	7.0	23.9	52.2	27.7	6.6	41.3	109.4	273.8		

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification – see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period – see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (d) Subject to revision.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1972	866.8	638.4	292.2	60.9	94.6	19.2	2,010.3
1973	1,098.1	780.5	320.2	130.6	117.3	140.1	2,634.7
1974	2,665.0	2,386.6	529.5	316.5	256.9	88.5	6,292.5
1975	1,477.8	1,221.7	473.3	127.6	100.7	40.6	3,509.9
1976	1,456.5	1,420.0	426.0	151.8	252.1	62.2	3,799.2
1976 -							
September	32.1	38.9	33.0	3.6	29.3	5.3	143.4
October	76.5	52.5	28.0	5.8	15.7	..	182.5
November	86.3	34.4	20.0	1.7	15.7	0.9	159.8
December	30.2	12.1	2.1	2.8	14.4	0.4	62.3
1977 -							
January	14.7	2.8	5.2	0.4	2.0	0.9	28.4
February	24.5	41.5	26.1	4.5	12.2	1.1	109.9
March	48.8	72.4	32.6	2.7	10.6	1.5	169.0
April	12.1	33.4	14.2	3.9	33.3	0.1	98.8
May	57.3	56.6	25.8	4.6	5.1	2.9	153.7
June	33.0	21.3	21.8	2.4	76.5	3.2	158.3
July (c)	63.9	44.0	16.8	1.8	22.7	11.1	160.6
August (c)	86.7	94.1	24.4	6.7	8.8	2.4	224.2
September (c)	86.1	131.5	48.3	0.1	3.6	2.1	273.8

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period – see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Subject to revision.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (Catalogue No. 1101.0. Previously Ref. No. 1.8).

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician